

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 25-26, 28-32, 38, 45, 49-50, 52-56, and 63 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 22-24, 27, 33, 37, 39-40, 46-48, 51, 57, and 61, and add new claims 64-70 as follows:

1.

22. (Amended) A biopsy forceps device having a proximal end and a distal end,

the device comprising:

an end effector assembly at the distal end of the device, wherein the end effector assembly includes a first jaw and a second jaw, the first jaw being pivotally disposed about a pivotal axis and with respect to the second jaw [and having a serrated edge surface];

an actuator at the proximal end of the device; and

a hollow portion connecting the end effector assembly and the actuator, wherein the actuator operates to pivot the first jaw about the pivotal axis and move the [serrated edge surface of the] first jaw into contact with the second jaw, wherein each of the first and second jaws includes a generally U-shaped configuration defining a center point and having a distalmost end, and wherein an edge of the distalmost end of each of the jaws includes teeth radially disposed about the center point.

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23. (Amended) The device according to claim 22, wherein the second jaw is pivotally disposed about the pivotal axis and with respect to the first jaw so that the jaws mate upon pivotal movement.

C1
(Cont.)

3.
24. (Amended) The device according to claim 23, further comprising a clevis pin, wherein the [first and second jaws are pivotally disposed on the clevis pin] pivotal axis is defined by the clevis pin.

C2

4.
25. (Amended) The device according to claim [25] 22, wherein the teeth have a substantially triangular shape.

C3

5.
26. (Amended) The device according to claim [30] 27, wherein the teeth of the first and second jaws mate.

C4

9.
27. (Amended) The device according to claim 36, further comprising a first pull wire positioned within the hollow portion, the first pull wire connecting the first jaw to the actuator and engaging the first bore, wherein a distal end of the first pull wire passes through and beyond the first bore and terminates without forming a loop.

C5

10.
28. (Amended) The device according to claim 37, further comprising a second pull wire positioned within the hollow portion and connecting the second jaw to the actuator.

11.

46. (Amended) The device according to claim 39, wherein the second jaw has a tang defining a second bore and the second pull wire engages the second bore [and terminates without forming a loop], a distal end of the second pull wire passing through and beyond the second bore and terminating without forming a loop, the actuator operating to pivot the second jaw about the pivotal axis.

(C5 cont'd)

C6

21.

46. (Amended) An end effector assembly for use in a biopsy forceps device including an actuator at a proximal end of the device and a hollow portion connecting the actuator to the end effector assembly, the end effector assembly comprising:

a [pivotally disposed] first jaw [having a serrated edge surface]; and

a second jaw for mating with the first jaw, wherein the first jaw is pivotally disposed with respect to the second jaw about a pivotal axis, and each of the first and second jaws includes a generally U-shaped configuration defining a center point and having a distalmost end, and wherein an edge of the distalmost end of each of the jaws includes teeth radially disposed about the center point.

22.

23.

47. (Amended) The assembly according to claim 46, wherein the second jaw is pivotally disposed about the pivotal axis and with respect to the first jaw so that the jaws mate upon pivotal movement.

C6
(cont)

23.

48. (Amended) The assembly according to claim 47, further comprising a clevis pin, wherein the [first and second jaws are pivotally disposed on the clevis pin] pivotal axis is defined by the clevis pin.

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C7

24.

51. (Amended) The assembly according to claim [49] 46, wherein the teeth have a substantially triangular shape.

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C8

21.

57. (Amended) The assembly according to claim [54] 51, wherein the teeth of the first and second jaws mate.

24.

C9

31.

61. (Amended) The assembly according to claim 46, wherein the second jaw has a tang defining a second first bore for receiving a second pull wire.

21,

C10

Please add new claims 64-70 as follows:

16.

--64. (New) The device according to claim 37, wherein the distal end of the first pull wire includes a main portion which extends in the direction of the actuator, a first portion which passes through the first bore at an angle to the main portion, and a second portion on the opposite side of the first bore relative to the main portion, the second portion of the first pull wire maintaining the first pull wire on the tang, the first pull wire terminating on the second portion.

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22

11.

65. (New) The device according to claim 64, wherein the first pull wire is bent between the main portion and the first portion and between the first portion and the second portion.

16.

66. (New) The device according to claim 65, wherein the first portion of the first pull wire which passes through the bore is rotatable relative to the surface of the bore.

17.

67. (New) The device according to claim 40, wherein the distal end of the second pull wire includes a main portion which extends in the direction of the actuator, a first portion which passes through the second bore at an angle to the main portion, and a second portion on the opposite side of the second bore relative to the main portion, the second portion of the second pull wire maintaining the second pull wire on the tang, the second pull wire terminating on the second portion.

24.

68. (New) The device according to claim 47, wherein the second pull wire is bent between the main portion and the first portion and between the first portion and the second portion.

25.

69. (New) The device according to claim 68, wherein the first portion of the second pull wire which passes through the second bore is rotatable relative to surface of the bore.

14)

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11)

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